

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 561

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, WB, GW

SUBJECT: RIFT BETWEEN SCHUETZ AND SCHMIDT

1. MARCH 10 SPIEGEL REPORT ON LORENZ KIDNAPPING ASSERTED THAT GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT DURING CRISIS STAFF MEETING IN BONN AND QUOTED "SCHUETZ CONFIDENT" AS SAYING THAT "IRREPARABLE" RIFT HAD OCCURRED BETWEEN TWO MEN.

2. DURING RECENT MEETING WITH THREE ALLIED DEPUTY COMMANDANTS, FEDREP SPANGENBERG TOLD STORY WITH POSSIBLE BEARING ON THIS. SPANGENBERG SAID THAT DURING HEATED DEBATE IN BONN CRISIS GROUP ON POSSIBILITY OF FRG SENDING TEAM OF SHARPSHOOTERS WITH THEIR WEAPONS TO BERLIN CHANCELLOR WAS REMINDED OF NEED TO CHECK WITH ALLIES, WHICH EVOKED SCHMIDT EXPLOSION TO EFFECT BERLINERS ALWAYS HIDING BEHIND ALLIES AND NOBODY INCLUDING RUSSIANS WOULD OBJECT TO SENDING THEM.

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3. WHEN SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ WAS ASKED BY US

LIAISON OFFICER ON MARCH 18 WHETHER THERE WAS ANY TRUTH TO SPIEGEL ALLEGATION, HE SAID IT WAS "500 PERCENT WRONG." HE ACKNOWLEDGED THERE HAD BEEN DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN SCHUETZ AND SCHMIDT AT OUTSET OF CRISIS DELIBERATIONS BUT EMPHASIZED THAT NO LASTING DAMAGE HAD BEEN DONE TO THEIR RELATIONSHIP. ACTING BRITISH LIAISON OFFICER, HOWEVER, HAS REPORTED SHE WAS PRESENT DURING MEETING BETWEEN SCHUETZ AND BRITISH JOURNALISTS WHEN VERY TIRED GOVERNING MAYOR STATED THAT DEEP AND LASTING DISAGREEMENT HAD DEVELOPED BETWEEN HIMSELF AND SCHMIDT.

4. DR. BRAUN, BUSINESS MANAGER OF CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, IN TURN TOLD POLAD THAT HE HAD HEARD DISAGREEMENT STARTED WHEN SCHUETZ INSISTED THAT LORENZ RELEASE BE OBTAINED AT ANY PRICE, WHILE CHANCELLOR TOOK POSITION THAT THERE MUST BE SOME LIMITS TO PRICE IN CONSIDERATION OF RIGHTS OF STATE AND, ACCORDINGLY, SOME RISK TO LORENZ.

5. COMMENT: IT MAY BE THAT CHANCELLOR, RISING FROM SICK BED FOR CRISIS MEETINGS, WAS UNDER MORE THAN USUAL STRESS. SCHUETZ, FOR HIS PART, WAS UNDER EMOTIONAL STRAIN STEMMING FROM CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH LORENZ AND ELECTION ATMOSPHERE. WHILE STRESS OF BATTLE CONFLICT MAY BE SMOOTHED OVER IN DUE COURSE, IT COULD WELL LEAVE SOME LASTING EFFECTS. GEORGE

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